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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Myrcia amplexicaulis (Vell.) Hook.f. (Myrtaceae: Myrteae): A new record for northeastern Brazil

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ABSTRACT: *Myrcia amplexicaulis* (Vell.) Hook.f. is a new record for northeastern Brazil. It is found in sub-montane remnants of Atlantic Forest as part of the canopy community, and can be recognized by its stem-clasping, reflexed leaves and the combination of the characters acute to rounded calyx lobes, pubescent staminal disk and style basis, and globose fruit. Taxonomic description, comments, distribution map, and pictures are presented here.

Remnant areas of Atlantic Forest, especially in southern Bahia, northern Espírito Santo, and the states of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Santa Catarina, are well known for their high number of endemic and restricted species of *Myrcia s.l.* (Murray-Smith *et al.* 2009). Recently, some species of Myrtaceae which were previously considered restricted to the southeastern part of the Atlantic Forest as well as a new species, have been found in the northeastern Atlantic Forest, which is naturally drier and lower in altitude (Amorim and Alves 2011; 2012; in press). These findings show the needs for better knowledge of the diversity and distribution of the family along the Atlantic Forest. In this context, *Myrcia amplexicaulis* is a good example of a species which was considered restricted to the state of Espírito Santo (Sobral *et al.* 2012) but now has its distribution expanded considerably with the findings presented here.

Myrcia amplexicaulis (Vell.) Hook.f., Bot. Mag. 95: t. 5790. 1869. Figures 1-2.

= *Gomidesia amplexicaulis* (Vell.) O. Berg, in Mart., Fl. bras. 14(1): 13. 1857.

Trees *ca.* 8–15 m alt., bark peeling in small plates, young stems pubescent, trichomes ferruginous. Leaves 17.5–41.5 x 7–20 cm, oval, ovate or rotund, reflexed (adult ones), sessile, apex acute, rounded to retuse, base cuneate or rounded, midvein sulcate, pubescent, secondary veins 16–18 pairs, tertiary veins reticulated, abaxial surface pubescent. Inflorescence paniculiform, the main floral axis 10–15 cm long; calyx 5-lobed, acute or rounded; staminal disk and style base pubescent. Fruits *ca.* 1.5 cm diam, globose, yellowish, reddish to dark-red when mature.

Myrcia amplexicaulis was previously recorded by Sobral *et al.* (2012) from Atlantic Forest in the state of Espírito Santo. Its occurrence is here expanded southwards to the state of Rio de Janeiro and northwards to sub-montane Atlantic Forest in the states of Bahia, Alagoas, and Pernambuco (Figure 1). The species grows in the canopy community, and is associated with other species such as *Thyrsodium spruceanum* Benth. (Anacardiaceae), *Anaxagorea dolichocarpa* Sprague and Sandwith (Annonaceae), *Anthurium penthaphyllum* (Aubl.) G.Don (Araceae), *Euterpe edulis* Mart. (Arecaceae), *Cryptanthus*

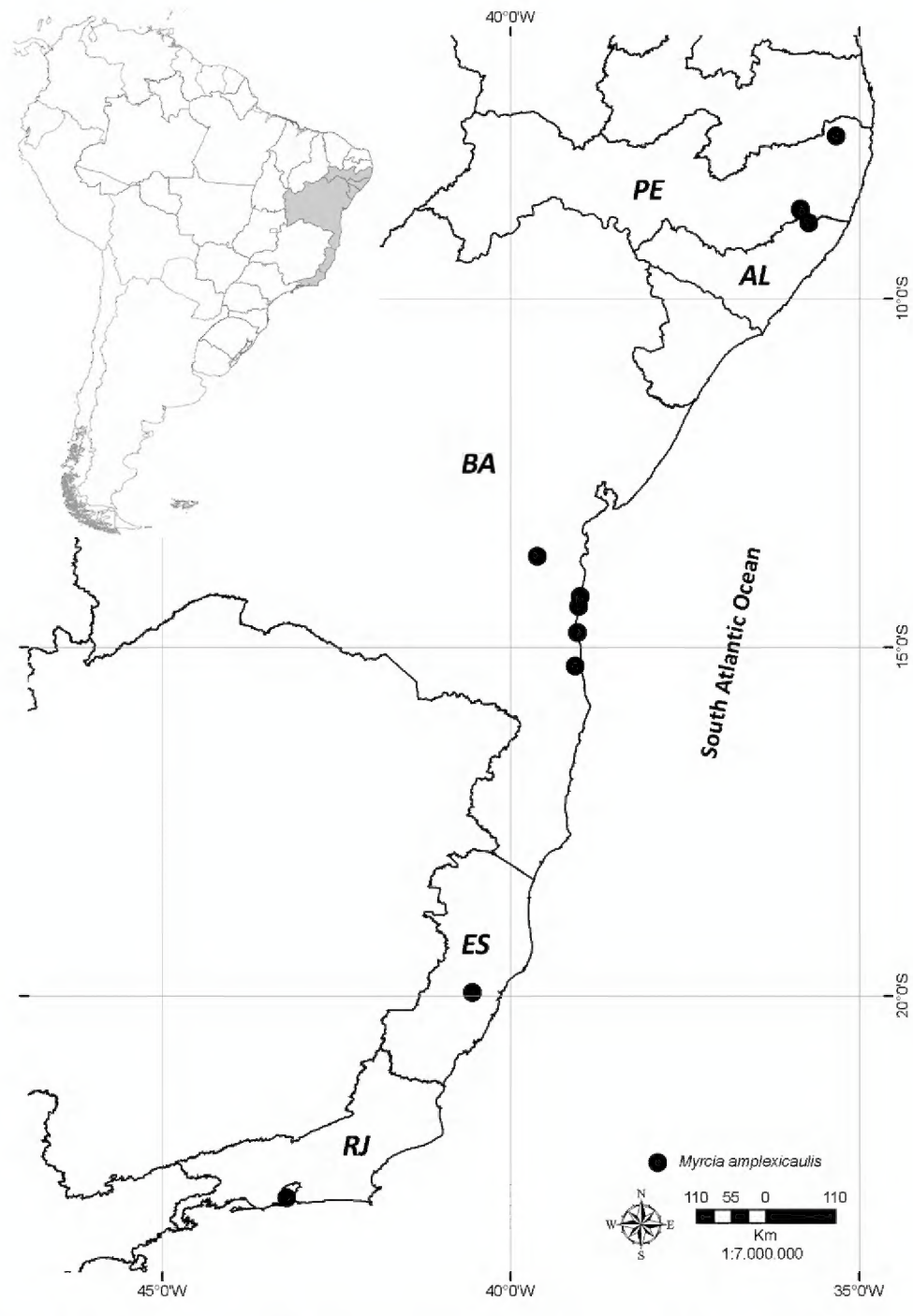

FIGURE 1. Map of distribution of *Myrcia amplexicaulis* along the Atlantic Forest. AL – Alagoas state; BA – Bahia state; ES – Espírito Santo state; PE – Pernambuco state; RJ – Rio de Janeiro state.

zonatus (Vis.) Beer (Bromeliaceae), *Lymania smithii* R.W. Read (Bromeliaceae), *Asplundia gardneri* (Hook.) Harling (Cyclanthaceae) and *Pouteria oxypetala* T.D. Penn. (Sapotaceae).

The stem-clasping leaves (amplexicaul-leaved) is a remarkable vegetative character to recognize this species as well as the reflexed leaves (when fully expanded) and the combination of the characters acute to rounded calyx lobes, pubescent staminal disk and style basis, and globose fruit (Figure 2).

FIGURE 2. *Myrcia amplexicaulis*. A. Bark with small plates; B. vegetative branch of a young specimen; C. detail of the stem-clasping leaves; D – H. Leaves with diversity of shape, and size; I. Paniculate inflorescence; J. Detail of acute to rounded calyx lobes; K. Infructescence; L. Detail of mature fruits and the venation on the abaxial side of the leaf.

Material examined: BRAZIL. Alagoas: Engenho Pé de Serra, 17.I.1967, fl., *F. Paiva 3381 et al.* (HST). Bahia: Ilhéus, Fazenda Serrapilheira, 27.XI.1987, *P.J.M. Maas 7059 et al.* (CEPEC); Itacaré, Fazenda das Almas, 27.I.1982, fl., *T.S. Santos 3726 et al.* (CEPEC); Una, Fazenda Queimada, 04.I.1970, fl., *S. Tavares 3139 et al.* (IPA); 11.XI.1969, fl., *D.P. Lima 12650 et al.* (HST, IPA); Uruçuca, Fazenda Santa Cruz, 1-12.VII.1991, fr., *W.W. Thomas 7080 et al.* (CEPEC); Wenceslau Guimarães, Mesquita, 26.VIII.2011, est., *B.S. Amorim 1023 et al.* (UFP). Espírito Santo: Santa Maria de Jetibá, Rio das Pedras, 23.III.2007, fr., *A.P. Fontana 3110 et al.* (RB), Santa Teresa, Estação Biológica de Santa Lúcia, 24.III.1988, fl., *H.Q. Boudet Fernandes 2429 et al.* (K, MBML); 12.II.1999, fl., *E.M. Nic Lughadha 189 et al.* (K); 12.II.1999, fr., *E.M. Nic Lughadha 191 et al.* (K); 08.III.1995, fl., *L.D. Thomaz 1417 et al.* (K, MBML); 19.XII.1990, fr., *S.V. Pereira 44 et al.* (K, MBML); 15.IX.1998, fr., L. Kollmann 558 et al. (K, MBML). Pernambuco: Jaqueira, RPPN Frei Caneca, 30.VI.2011, fr., *B.S. Amorim 948 et al.* (UFP); 11.III.2011, fl., *B.S. Amorim 817 et al.* (UFP); Vicência, Engenho Jundiá, 07.I.1961, fl., *S. Tavares 572 et al.* (HST). Rio de Janeiro: *L. Riedel 370 et al*. (US).

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